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Dear Customs and Border Enforcement Freedom of Information Act Unit,

I am a current PhD student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology pursuing a doctorate in economics. I am researching how illegal drug markets respond to supply crackdowns, both crackdowns internationally (as in the case of source country control) or domestically (as in the case of recent anti-methamphetamine laws).

One of the primary channels for illicit markets to respond to domestic crackdowns is through increased imports of drugs from other countries. Likewise, one sign of a successful international crackdown is decreased imports of illegal drugs from other countries. To study this, I would like to request data on seizures of illegal drugs at U.S. borders and ports, which is the purview of the Customs and Border Enforcement agency.

In particular, I would like to request the following data on all seizures of illegal drugs (as defined by U.S. law) at or near (within 10 km of) U.S. borders, including ports of entry, from 1970-2013.

- Date of seizure
- Type of drug seized
- Quantity of drugs seized (by type of drug, if multiple drugs are seized at once)
- Location of seizure (by point of entry or border patrol station), including GPS coordinates of the station HQ or port
- Type of entry point (port or border patrol station)

I would like to request this data as a comma-separated values (.csv) file, with each row corresponding to a different seizure.

I would like to note that this request is in the public interest, as this request will enable new research on the comparative effectiveness of different drug enforcement policies, including responses by suppliers (domestic and international) to crackdowns in other locations. Upon publication of any research, I can also publish the accompanying data, which will reduce the burden on the Customs and Border Patrol FOIA unit to respond to similar requests in the future. I also state that I have no financial interests that could be affected by the release of this information and thus this FOIA request is not related to any commercial interests I might have.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any clarifying questions or with details about any data formatting issues. I prefer to be contacted via email (oreid@mit.edu) or phone (919-357-7372). I greatly appreciate your assistance.

Sincerely,

Otis Reid